GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3453
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2001
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN
KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a National Commission for Children;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the realistic steps proposed to be taken for coordinating various activities relating to the child welfare?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Department of Women and Child Development has prepared a Draft Bill for setting up a National Commission for Children. The Draft Bill has been circulated to all the State Governments and concerned Ministries/Departments of Government of India, seeking their comments and views by 14th August 2001.

The following functions have been proposed for the Commission. To:

(i) Oversee the proper implementation of existing laws for children.

(ii) Review and recommend revision of existing laws to bring them in harmony with the National Policy for children, 1974 and Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) acceded by India in 1992.

(iii) Monitor all sectoral policies, welfare programmes and interventions and recommend best practices.

(iv) Enquire into petitions received from victims.

(v) Conduct research and advocacy on issues related to children.

(vi) Study living conditions of inmates in rehabilitation/juvenile homes.

(vii) Strengthen creative interventions through dynamic partnerships.

(viii) Intervene in court proceedings on violation of child rights.

(ix) Identify all harmful and dehumanizing practices pertaining to the child and take appropriate action.

(x) Spread child Rights and Duties literacy and promote awareness of safeguards.

(c) The proposed National Commission for Children will go into all aspects of development, welfare and protection of children. It will be a statutory body, which will take a holistic overview of all children's issues, including those that are being dealt with by a number of Ministries at the Central and State Level.

The Commission will monitor and evaluate the status of safeguards provided to children constitutionally, legally or otherwise, and advise the Government from time to time on steps and measures to be taken.